

# IN THE BEGINNING



Picture taken in '1943. Harlan Cleaver and Theron Fitzpatrick.

**Published Quarterly By  
Woodson County Historical Society  
Yates Center, Kansas  
Vol. 17 • No. 65**

## IN THE BEGINNING

Vol. 17 - No. 65

January, 1984

Lester A. Harding - Editor

### Editor's Notes —

Try as hard as we may to keep mistakes from coming out in this quarterly, they still seem to happen, and we will correct some.

On page 6, Flora Wagner married Bill Linderman instead of Harry Hull.

On page 13, Dana Whitney married Mike Day instead of Buster Black. (Anyway they were all in-laws.)

On page 17, we mentioned the children of Charles and Amanda Mulsow, and then omitted the name of Kathryn. When we told of the different ones. Kathryn Mae Mulsow was married to James H. Boyd. They had two children, Geraldine and Kenneth Boyd.

\* \* \* \* \*

The red mark in the box above means your subscription has expired. Please send remittance as soon as possible.



This picture of a corn sled in action was taken about 1900. The little boy at the left is the editor's brother Percy Harding. The man on the seat facing out was my father George A. Harding. We always understood that the other man sitting front was my Uncle Curt Harding, but it hardly looks like him.

## IN THE BEGINNING

Published Quarterly By  
Woodson County Historical Society  
Yates Center, Kansas

\$4.00 per year

1

\$1.00 per copy

**WOODSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
**Organized March, 1965**

Tuesday evening, September 27, 1983, was the regular meeting of the Woodson County Historical Society, with a 6:30 dinner meeting, at the 107 Inn, with 38 present.

A business meeting took up most of the evening. It was agreed to build an addition to the rear of the present building, and be the size of the addition put on a few years back. Work has started at this time and the addition has been finished. The problem now is getting display cases, and re-arranging some of the articles in the older part. The latest addition is the same size as the first addition, 30 X 30 feet.

## IN MEMORIAM

Gilbert Starkebaum 82 Oct. 11, 1983  
Mr. Starkebaum had been a resident of Woodson County for several years. He worked on the State Hi-way for quite a few years. He with his wife Dorothy had been members of the Woodson County Historical Society for several years.

The regular meeting of the Woodson County Historical Society was held Tuesday evening for a dinner meeting at the 107 Inn. There were 50 members and visitors present. Kenneth Stockebrand and wife Barbara gave a slide presentation of their recent trip of two months through western Canada and Alaska. It was very interesting.

An addition of 30 X 30 feet has been added to the Woodson County Historical Museum. Joining on the south the same size that the first addition was. This will make room for many articles that have not been displayed and for future accessions. We hope this can be accomplished before opening time next spring.

The membership of the Woodson County Historical Society seems to keep on an even keel. There are 136 Life members and about 120 regulars.

## Join and Support

# WOODSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

**Life Membership \$25.00**

2

**Regular \$2.00 a year**

## **WARREN MILLER — First Newspaper Correspondent from Turkey Creek**

The person that we believe was the first newspaper reporter for a Woodson County paper was Warren Miller. The paper was the Woodson County Post, published at Neosho Falls during the years of 1873-74. There was no Yates Center at that time. Warren wrote under the heading of BYRON, a post office that was moved several times, but stayed in the area of Turkey Creek.

Warren was a son of John C. and Louise Miller, who came to this area in 1870, homesteading an 80 acre claim in Liberty township eight miles north and a mile west from where Yates Center now is. Louisa Miller died in 1872 and is buried in the Sira Cemetery, that was about two miles from their cabin. In 1886, John C. Miller was appointed as postmaster of Byron.

We do not know the exact dates he wrote for the Woodson County Post. But some were written in 1873 and some in 1874. We will tell more about Warren Miller and family before telling some of his writings.

Warren purchased 80 acres in west half acres of the northeast quarter of Sec. 4, 28-14. That was in 1882.

That fall a young lady from up the creek taught school at Dist. #50. Her name was Miss Mary Stines who was born and raised along Turkey Creek. Her parents Mr. and Mrs. Wm. B. Stines lived up towards the head of Turkey Creek. Warren and Mary were married Feb. 25, 1883, and started their married life on his 80 acres that had a small house and some improvements on it. This claim had belonged to Thomas Lamborn. It was eight miles north and three-fourths east from Yates Center.

On Jan. 19, 1884 a son, Curtis was born to them, then four daughters, Edna in 1886, Adda, Apr. 20, 1889, Leona, Aug. 27, 1892 and Ethelyn, July 18, 1894. They lost two of these daughters in babyhood. They were Edna and Adda.

In Sept. 1903, they sold out and moved to Oregon, where they lived out their lives, celebrating their Golden Wedding Anniversary Feb. 25, 1933. Warren Miller died May 31, 1947 and Mary Jan. 22, 1942.

Mary had a brother Grant Stines, a sister, Mrs. Flora Stines Chambers. Her husband was Jesse Chambers, and it was made possible to write this and other articles we have from the scrapbooks of "Aunt Flora" as we knew her. She kept and filed the many births, deaths and marriages over a period of many years, and covering quite a lot of territory where they may have lived.

A half sister, Ethelyn who married James Ward, both of whom spent many years along Turkey Creek. They also had two half sisters, Almeda and Edna Stines.



Mary and Warren Miller

\* \* \* \* \*

### REMINISCENCE

Portland, Ore., Jan. 21, 1920 - Editor News

I am the son of J.C. Miller, located in distant Oregon. The hardships we were called upon to endure were the stepping stones of neighborly brotherhood. The devastating prairie fires that were a menace to the early settlers. They sometimes swept the homestead and left nothing but the ashes, and a few instances the family included. I have been one of others that held the horses for a quick mount while our fathers were backfiring on the north side of Turkey Creek against a raging fire from the northwest and should that fire leap the creek we must mount our horses and try to save our loved ones. Some people today do not realize how prairie fires run with such rapidity until we consider air heated by fire arises and makes room for heavier air which rushes in and produces wind. Sometime great forkfull of grass will burn off at the ground and carried hundreds of feet before it will light a sheet of flame and start another fire, and so on, with increasing speed, showing no favors and asking no quarters.

Our houses were not of the best. Our house, having sand rocks standing on edge between the studs, and some of them leaned out like the hanging walls of Babylon, and sometimes

would fall and snakes would off times climb up behind the rocks and peek out in a neighborly way to see how we were faring.

Brother Reed's one room house on a claim north of ours had no finish, and twelve-inch rough walnut boards for floor. In cold days his good wife would sit on one side of their little cook stove with her feet in the oven and their two children likewise on the other side, and poor Brother Reed would come out on the south side of the house in the sunshine and beat time to keep warm.

I was in Mr. Hemmenways log house one day when it rained; the only dry place was under the door-jam. Still we were inspired with a pioneer's life.

Lafe Weeden thought he was called to preach, but when a woman ran him out with a broomstick he concluded the wires must have been crossed.

In the fall of '74 the grasshoppers came. There were a few sextillion, quadrillion, but most of them seemed to be imbued with the admonition of Horace Greeley to go west and grow up with the country. Had they all stayed we would have been drowned in grasshoppers. In less than a half hour our corn had turned black and was wieghed to the ground with the black rascals. They were very unwelcome visitors, except to the chickens and they were soon suffering with a bursted crop. Well it goes without saying they ate everything, even knawed holes in pitchfork handles. Before they left they drilled the ground full of holes until it resembled a pepper box lid, and there in laid their eggs. We expected a big crop of hoppers the next spring. They seemingly all hatched but left for the west before breakfast.

The winter of 1874-75, found the necessities of life rather scant, many children without shoes and a scarcity of other clothing. I chanced at a house of a good-sized family at meal time. When dinner was announced the children rushed to the table and stood up, as there were no chairs. In less than two minutes the table was bare, save the dishes. My father (John Miller) wrote to friends in Vermont stating conditions. They immediately sent money and a notice that two boxes of goods were on the way. With the money sent he bought a lot of flour, a barrel of beans, a barrel of molasses, and saved \$10, to pay freight on boxes. Our company was in evidence while the provisions lasted. When the boxes came they were bunkers, the freight was \$30. So we had to dig out of our not very well filled pockets \$20 more. We had company early and late and soon

the boxes were empty. The following year we raised a bountiful crop and all were happy.

Indians would surprise the settlers with occasional visits. They were not hostile, but inveterate beggars. To one of the settlers an Indian asked: "Give a poor Indian some hoggy meat", to the reply, "I have no hoggy meat" the Indian said, "You buy hoggy meat? Me sell you hoggy meat."

An Indian died at the John Miller home. He was sown up in his blanket and buried with his head to the east so he could come up on his feet with the sun in the Happy Hunting Ground.

SEPT. 9, 1874 - There was a big fire at the head of Turkey Creek last Friday. It started near the southeast corner of the Van Horn Ranch by some campers. Ran across Turkey Creek, burned up to 8 to 10 tons of hay for J.B. Sweet. Cleared off where Baldwin and Crandall were herding their cattle.

Burned off David Askren's pasture fence - considerable damage for W.B. Stines, besides killing a great deal of young timber. Got across Turkey Creek and went whooping for Owl Creek. Had the wind shifted to the southwest no earthly power could have saved the county from ruin.

SEPT. 22, 1874 - Everybody drying peaches. Haying not over yet.

A child of John Light's died Sunday morning of dysentery.

The deer are helping Mr. David Askren make his apples into cider. They work at night, but always forget to leave Dave his share.

E.G. Rugh is preparing to leave Kansas, thus fall, going back to Pennsylvania.

DECEMBER 3, 1874 - Many have enjoyed snow sledding, others tracking down deer, still others in pursuit of prairie chicken, quail and cottontail.

Some have indulged in deer hunting to excess. Even E.G. Meade wounded two. He sprained his ankle and had to give up before getting any, Mr. John Sturdivan has killed two.

## WHAT IS IT??

The part of an old time farm implement that was on the front cover of the October, 1983, issue of IN THE BEGINNING, and captioned "What Is It?", caused quite a lot of comment from several persons. Of the several that identified the seat or rather they knew what it was used on, but none of them had ever used or saw an iron seat. Enous Jasper was the first one to really identify it said, "It was used on a Dain Corn Cutter". The one we used to use was made by the Dane Manufacturing Co. Elbert Marion called from Lola to say that he never saw an iron seat but thought it was used on a corn sled or cutter.

Bennet Herder told about working on the old corn cutter with a mule that didn't mind to good and as he stepped off sled just as the mule decided to step forward, cutting Bennett's leg.

Bud Burns and Orville Stewart both identified the seat, as they had both worked on a corn sled. While we always called it a sled, the one-man implement was really a sled with a knife on one side, and the two runners were dragged on the ground, while the corn cutter was actually on three wheels, about a foot in diameter.

W.E. Breneman, of Parsons wrote; "It's a seat for a corn cutter. There was a right and left hand seat. My dad had a corn cutter, but I am sure that it had a wooden seat on it and 2 men sat on it and caught the corn in their arms. The shaft had a metal band around the end of it, and you had to raise the shaft up and lead the horse under it."

On the cutter the writer worked on we never lifted the shaft, but first Old Prince and then Buck who were both very steady horses would step over the shaft and in between the shafts without touching them.

\* \* \* \* \*

The cover picture and the pictures on page 8, are of a Corn Cutter, belonging to Theron Fitzpatrick who lives two miles south of Neosho Falls. We are indebted to Theron and Pauline Fitzpatrick. This corn cutter was originally owned by Ed Fitzpatrick, Theron's father, and was restored by Theron and son Ed, the latter being son and grandson of the original owners.

The cover picture was taken in 1943, with Harlan Cleaver and Theron on the seats. For several years the old cutter was idle and deteriorated considerable. Later the Fitzpatrick boys started to restore the cutter for a high school project but got stopped until 1983.



**Andy Beatty and Theron Fitzpatrick riding the Old Cutter in the Iola Parade, 1983.**



**The Old Dain Corn Cutter, pulled by tractor in the Neosho Falls parade in 1983, with Harlan Cleaver and Frank Mable aboard.**

## THE REUBEN JONES FAMILY —

In the hills that lay on both sides of Brazil Creek in the west part of the county was the farm of Reuben Jones and family. This farm is about 10 miles west of Yates Center, with the west branch of Brazil cutting through the center of the farm. They came to this farm about 1891.

Reuben Jones was born near Jefferson City, and was about three years old when his father Thomas Jones and family moved to Grundy County, Ill., near a small place named Piper City. It was here that Reuben Jones met and married Miss Anna Fisher, who was a native of New Jersey. Here in Grundy County, three sons were born to Reuben and Anna Jones. They were married in 1870, and came to Kansas about eleven years later and purchased 240 acres in 1891.

Reuben and Anna Jones were parents of three sons, Thomas E. (who went mostly by the name of Toby Moat, a nickname that evidently stayed with him.) George Francis, and Asa.

Thomas E. was married to Margaret "Maggie" Ward. Her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Ward were early day settlers in the Dutro vicinity, north of Yates Center. They lived in Quincy, Kansas, for years where Margaret worked for the A.T. & S. Fe, R.R. They had two daughters, Grace and Vera Dell. Vera Dell married H.H. Anderson.

George Francis was married to Phena May Singleton, whose parents lived along Dry Creek. They farmed in that area, until the death of George Francis, in Feb. 1903 at the age 30 years, 6 mo. they had one daughter, Reta. After the death of George Mrs. Jones and daughter moved to Yates Center. On Dec. 10, 1923, Reta Jones was married to Hugh Campbell. They had two sons Francis and Dale.

Asa Jones married Lula Cain. They had two children, Oral and Keith.

Reuben Jones died in Aug. 1923, but his wife, Anna died February 20, 1950, just a short time after her 100th birthday.

The Reuben Jones farm in the hills of Brazil had been sold in 1904 to Lewis Reep.



**Picture of family home on Brazil Creek. In the picture starting at the right are, Reuben, Anna, Thomas (Toby) and Asa B., this was evidently taken after the death of George Francis.**

\* \* \* \* \*

We believe that the following letter is at least indirected with the Jones family, and was printed in the Yates Center News - 9-16-1965.

Mrs. Grace Butler recently received a letter from an old friend Mrs. Margaret Jones, who lives in California. In the letter Mrs. Jones requested Mrs. Butler (my aunt) to have her nephew write an article for the News. Mrs. Jones referred to me as 'Belle Butler's boy'.

From 1951 when she moved to California, until her eyes began to weaken she spent her time sewing quilts and comforts to send to the Indian Reservations and other work through the Methodist Church, of Costa Mesa. For her unfailing work and devotion to friends and church, a group met at her home on her 94th birthday.

Being 94 years old and practically blind, Mrs. Jones still writes and we will try and follow her letter as near as we can. The words in parenthesis are mine - LAH.

"This is what I can remember of my early life. Charley Ward and family came to Kansas in a covered wagon from Manmouth, Ill., in the spring of 1871. I was born in July 28, 1871. I went to my first school at Baldwin School which was later moved to the Chris Phelps farm and called the Phelps School, I walked three miles to school but when the Dutro School was built we went to that school, as it was only 1½ miles, I got my education there.

In 1889, I taught the Windy Point School, in 1890, I taught the Mt. Pleasant School, had 54 pupils, some older than I was. I hear now that the school is abandoned and the pupils go to Yates Center by bus. In 1891 I taught at the Phelps school and in 1892 at Dist. No. 1, and in 1893 I was married to Thomas Jones. It was a double wedding at my fathers house. Del Hearn and Stella Eddy were married with us. I am the only one of the four living.

We lived on a farm for a year and then moved to Quincy just a few miles over the line. My husband had the blacksmith shop, John Hoggatt had the grocery store, Arthur and Charley Jenkins the hardware store. I think at that time the post office was in the hardware store. Clint Knowles had the livery barn, Mrs. Charlie Cornish the hotel and Mr. Hawhins the dry goods store. That was the City of Quincy, Kansas in 1894.

I went to work for the A.T.&S. Fe railroad in 1902, and retired in 1940.

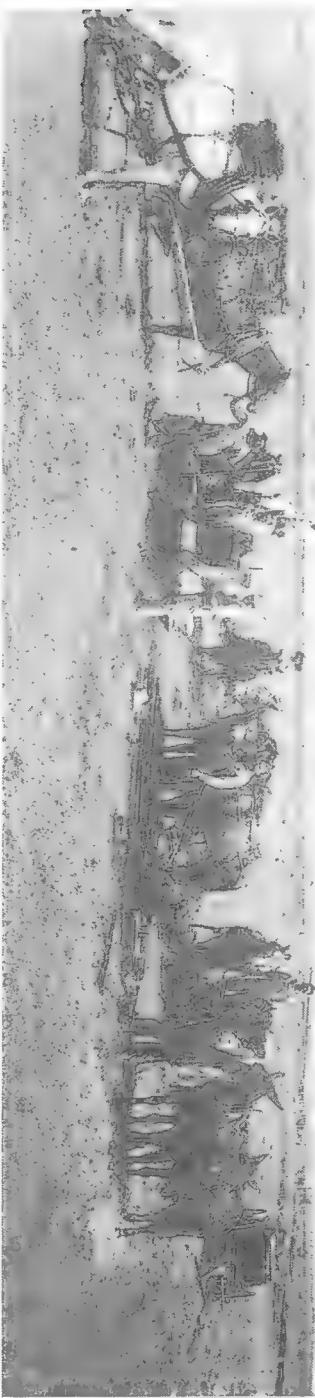
In 1934, I bought a little farm south of Yates Center and my brother, Jim Ward and family lived on it. When I moved I lived part time on the farm and part in Calif. with my daughter.

In 1944, I sold the farm to my nephew Don Ward who is sheriff. I moved to California in 1951 to live with my daughter, Mrs. Hamel Anderson. I lived in Kansas 80 years, in Woodson and Greenwood counties.



**Picture of George Francis Jones, standing, sitting is his wife, Phena May (Singleton), in front is their daughter, Reta Jones.**

We believe that this is the clearest picture of an old horse power hay baler we ever saw. We believe to be west of Batesville, but do not know who the crew is but believe some of the Guenther family is in it. The team to the left are hitched to the "buckrake", with the man holding them. The baler has been taken off its wheels with wheels and tongue around the baler power. The man to left of the hopper is the tier and man on other side is the pitcher. They change every 25 bales. The grey team of mules are hitched to the sweep. The two teams would be changed every 50 bales. The boy on horse that is hitched to a sulky rake. The hay mower and hauler are both in the picture. The plunger slips off the heavy iron "goose neck" three times as the team makes a complete circle.



## WOODSON COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS - 1936-37

|        |            |                          |                |
|--------|------------|--------------------------|----------------|
| 33     | - Director | - Alma Vice              | - Rose         |
|        | Clerk      | - Emil Stoll             | - Rose         |
|        | Treas.     | - Paul Young             | - Rose         |
| 34     | - Director | - F.L. Tidd              | - Neosho Falls |
|        | Clerk      | - Ira Saferite           | - Neosho Falls |
|        | Treas.     | - Ira M. Hepler          | - Neosho Falls |
| 35     | - Director | - C.L. Jacobson          | - Yates Center |
|        | Clerk      | - Ivan Rork              | - Yates Center |
|        | Treas.     | - George Conn            | - Yates Center |
| 37     | - Director | - Gus Mollnow            | - Yates Center |
|        | Clerk      | - W.T. Dodd              | - Yates Center |
|        | Treas.     | - H.L. Lasley            | - Yates Center |
| Jt. 38 | - Director | - G.B. Haas              | - Gridley      |
|        | Clerk      | - H.O. Etter             | - Yates Center |
|        | Treas.     | - J.L. Redick            | - Yates Center |
| 39     | - Director | - Will Herder            | - Yates Center |
|        | Clerk      | - John Englebrecht       | - Yates Center |
|        | Treas.     | - Eldon Kee              | - Yates Center |
| 40     | - Director | - Louis Stock            | - Toronto      |
|        | Clerk      | - Walter L. Miller       | - Toronto      |
|        | Treas.     | - Ernest Key             | - Toronto      |
| 41     | - Director | - Mrs. Frank Curtis      | - Toronto      |
|        | Clerk      | - Mrs. Edith Pendlay     | - Toronto      |
|        | Treas.     | - Henry C. Burkle        | - Toronto      |
| 42     | - Director | - L.R. Nantz             | - Yates Center |
|        | Clerk      | - T.A. McGee             | - Yates Center |
|        | Treas.     | - William Pitman         | - Neosho Falls |
| 43     | - Director | - Glen Harding           | - Gridley      |
|        | Clerk      | - Gail Edwards           | - Gridley      |
|        | Treas.     | - C.L. Weide             | - Gridley      |
| 44     | - Director | - Mrs. Wallace Weide     | - Yates Center |
|        | Clerk      | - J.W. Williams          | - Yates Center |
|        | Treas.     | - Frank Dassow           | - Yates Center |
| 45     | - Director | - W.M. Wolf              | - Toronto      |
|        | Clerk      | - E.A. Gorman            | - Toronto      |
|        | Treas.     | - Ben Hollingsworth      | - Toronto      |
| 46     | - Director | - Louis Toedman          | - Yates Center |
|        | Clerk      | - Fred Wilson            | - Yates Center |
|        | Treas.     | - Mrs. Alice Stockebrand | - Yates Center |
| 47     | - Director | - Frank Schornick        | - Yates Center |
|        | Clerk      | - L.D. Vanhoozer         | - Yates Center |
|        | Treas.     | - Arthur Watts           | - Yates Center |
| 48     | - Director | - Herbert Laude          | - Rose         |
|        | Clerk      | - Bert Reed              | - Rose         |
|        | Treas.     | - Mrs. Glen Ridell       | - Rose         |
| 49     | - Director | - F.L. Light             | - Yates Center |
|        | Clerk      | - Jodie Mulsow           | - Yates Center |
|        | Treas.     | - Mrs. Ella Edwards      | - Yates Center |

## SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS - 1936-37

|        |            |                        |                |
|--------|------------|------------------------|----------------|
| 50     | - Director | - C.L. Watkins         | - Yates Center |
|        | Clerk      | - T.H. Mitchell        | - Yates Center |
|        | Treas.     | - G.C. Holderman       | - Yates Center |
| 52     | - Director | - John Cramer          | - Piqua        |
|        | Clerk      | - Mrs. Irene Schornick | - Piqua        |
|        | Treas.     | - Mrs. Clara Frevert   | - Piqua        |
| 53     | - Director | - Henry Bushman        | - Neosho Falls |
|        | Clerk      | - Mrs. Bryan Thomas    | - Neosho Falls |
|        | Treas.     | - Robert Garland       | - Neosho Falls |
| 54     | - Director | - Mrs. Lawrence Sicka  | - Yates Center |
|        | Clerk      | - Mrs. Muriel Beine    | - Yates Center |
|        | Treas.     | - Louis H. Turner      | - Yates Center |
| 55     | - Director | - Dick Beanway         | - Yates Center |
|        | Clerk      | - Mrs. J.H. O'Neal     | - Yates Center |
|        | Treas.     | - Earl Gorman          | - Yates Center |
| Jt. 56 | - Director | - Alva Watts           | - Quincy       |
|        | Clerk      | - Mrs. Sadie Sherman   | - Toronto      |
|        | Treas.     | - C.C. Nordmeyer       | - Toronto      |
| 57     | - Director | - L.O. Davis           | - Yates Center |
|        | Clerk      | - H.A. Wolff           | - Gridley      |
|        | Treas.     | - James Tallman        | - Yates Center |
| 58     | - Director | - H.A. Wrampe          | - Yates Center |
|        | Clerk,     | - Harold V. Ireland    | - Yates Center |
|        | Treas.     | - Frank Kash           | - Rose         |
| Jt. 59 | - Director | - Mrs. C.R. Peek       | - Yates Center |
|        | Clerk      | - Mrs. Chan Vannocker  | - Gridley      |
|        | Treas.     | - Mrs. George Naylor   | - Yates Center |
| 60     | - Director | - J.C. Fuller          | - Buffalo      |
|        | Clerk      | - R.C. Puckett         | - Buffalo      |
|        | Treas.     | - Wm. Wallis           | - Buffalo      |
| 61     | - Director | - Mrs. Ollie Cook      | - Yates Center |
|        | Clerk      | - C.R. Mulsow          | - Yates Center |
|        | Treas.     | - Fred Holmquest       | - Yates Center |
| 62     | - Director | - P.E. Mentzer         | - Yates Center |
|        | Clerk      | - C.A. Cope            | - Yates Center |
|        | Treas.     | - Theo. Holmquest      | - Yates Center |
| 63     | - Director | - H.L. Winterscheid    | - Gridley      |
|        | Clerk      | - Milo Miller          | - Gridley      |
|        | Treas.     | - Glen Winterscheid    | - Gridley      |
| 64     | - Director | - Wm. Westerman        | - Piqua        |
|        | Clerk      | - G.C. Kuestersteffen  | - Piqua        |
|        | Treas.     | - R.N. Barnhart        | - Piqua        |
| 65     | - Director | - R.A. Gregg           | - Yates Center |
|        | Clerk      | - Clarence Elliot      | - Rose         |
|        | Treas.     | - Mrs. Ethel Schaede   | - Yates Center |
| 66     | - Director | - G.S. Chipp           | - Toronto      |
|        | Clerk      | - George B. Tipton     | - Toronto      |
|        | Treas.     | - Arthur Woolaway      | - Toronto      |

## SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS - 1936-37

|    |            |                      |                |
|----|------------|----------------------|----------------|
| 67 | - Director | - E.D. Brewer        | - Yates Center |
|    | Clerk      | - Lee Cambers        | - Yates Center |
|    | Treas.     | - Mrs. E.A. Turner   | - Yates Center |
| 68 | - Director | - J.L. Adamson       | - Toronto      |
|    | Clerk      | - Wilmer Scott       | - Toronto      |
|    | Treas.     | - R.G. Rhemer        | - Toronto      |
| 69 | - Director | - A.W. Tipton        | - Toronto      |
|    | Clerk      | - Fred McNitt        | - Toronto      |
|    | Treas.     | - H.L. Klick         | - Toronto      |
| 70 | - Director | - Glen Roush         | - Rose         |
|    | Clerk      | - G.B. Chandler      | - Buffalo      |
|    | Treas.     | - Mrs. J.E. Chandler | - Rose         |
| 71 | - Director | - Fred Belbe         | - Yates Center |
|    | Clerk      | - C.R. Miller        | - Yates Center |
|    | Treas.     | - E.C. Stockebrand   | - Yates Center |
| 72 | - Director | - Harley Mentzer     | - Yates Center |
|    | Clerk      | - Mrs. Elmer Weide   | - Yates Center |
|    | Treas.     | - Katherine Lewis    | - Yates Center |

## VERNON RURAL HIGH SCHOOL NO. 1

|          |                 |                |
|----------|-----------------|----------------|
| Director | - Loy Tannahill | - Yates Center |
| Clerk    | - Richard Adams | - Neosho Falls |
| Treas.   | - G.H. Shaw     | - Yates Center |

\* \* \* \* \*

## YATES CENTER, AUGUST 17, 1884 - Gone up in Smoke!

Between 2 and 3 a.m., Monday morning the dreaded cry of FIRE, the first in our history, greeted ears of slumbering people. Fire started southwest corner of the square in building occupied by T.W. Wilson, general store. Argus printing establishment was upstairs. Stone building on the corner-two wooden buildings on the east. The first victim was Swan Johnson's furniture warehouse below and S.R. Shirley's Art Gallery above. Next building in track of the fire was Swan Johnson Furniture and Undertaking establishment, what fell prey to advancing flames. This building had a history as it was one of the first half dozen built in Kalida in fall of 1869, and in August, 1875 was moved to Yates Center, the first structure to adorn the site of the present metropolis. At different times, a general store, drug store, a "hard pan" exchange, a residence, a millinery store and furniture emporium. Next was the double store of C.C. Mills.

Ax's, crowbars, ropes and scores of willing hands formed a bucket line from the northeast corner of the square. Others having loss were, Popkess Coal Agency, C.A. Stutz Watch & Clock Repair, city not prepared for fire. Street was a conglomerate scattered over the streets.

## THE JOSEPH DARST FAMILY —

In the year of 1867, a wagon train left Lowell, Indiana with their destination being Woodson County, Kansas. Among this large group was a John Dumond and his wife Addie 'Darst' Dumond. They settled on a farm a half mile east and three quarters mile south from where the stone schoolhouse is along U.S.-75. Here their three sons were born, Frank, Edward and Fred. And here John Dumond died leaving his wife and three small sons.

In the year, 1877 when John Dumond died, Joseph Darst a brother of Mrs. Dumond left Lowell, Ind. to come here to make his home with her.

In the year of 1877 Joseph Darst, was married to Miss Addie Barker, who had come to the Pleasant Valley with her parents Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Barker in 1867.

Joseph and Addie Darst started the marriage life on the farm about a mile west from the stone schoolhouse. They were parents of eight children, namely, Charles, Lucy, Eva, Nora, Susie, Clinton, Earl and Fred who died as a small boy.

1-Charles was married to Ellen Webster. They had a daughter Cleo. The mother Ellen died when Cleo was three years old. Cleo married Floyd Pickering. In 1907 Charles was married to Isa Taylor. Their children were, Verna who married LeRoy Martz. Erma Addie, who died as an infant. Alberta who married Lawrence Elliot.

2-Lucy, who married Harry Webster. They were parents of four children. Russell, Ruth who married Clyde Hedgewood, Edwin and Ralph.

3-Eva was born in 1882. She was married to Carl Abbott. Their children were, Clifford was born in 1909. He was a graduate of the Yates Center High School of the class of 1926, while attending Washburn College he contacted typhoid fever and died Aug. 10, 1930 at age 21. Alma never married. Alice who married Mervin Terrell, and Barbara Jean, married W. Kenneth Stockebrand.

4-Nora, who married O.C. Buell. Their children were Theodore and Lois. Lois married George Robinson.

5-Susie Darst, married Ray Orbin. Their children were twins, Margaret and Mildred. Margaret married --- Bishop, later she was married to Frank Bennington. Mildred died at the age of three years old. Marcella, who married Milton Wrampe. They had no children, but their home was open to a couple of nephews. Marcella has been County Clerk of Woodson County for 26 years and Deputy for four years. Naomi married Leslie Condit.

6-Clinton, like some of the rest spent his life in the Rose community. He was married to Hazel (White) Jefferson. They had no children.

7-Earl Darst, married Chrystal Ibbetson. They had a son Leon Darst.

8-Fred Darst who died as a young child.

On May 27, 1901, occurred the double wedding of Miss Lucy Darst to Harry Webster, and Miss Ellen Webster to Charles E. Darst, with a union service by which both couples were married at the same time. Rev. Blackburn of Buffalo, pastor of the Rose M.E. Church, married Ellen and Charles, and Rev. Comber of Eureka, pastor of the Valley Baptist Church married Lucy and Charles.



**THE JOSEPH DARST FAMILY** - Back row left to right - Eva, Lucy, Charles, next row Addie (Barker) and Joseph Darst. Next row Susie and Nora. Inserts, Earl and Clinton.

## THE GENEVA PRESBYTERIAL ACADEMY —

While this article is about the Academy that existed in the small town of Geneva, perhaps some back ground of the town would be in order. While Geneva is in Allen County, it is almost a "sister city" to Neosho Falls. It is or was about 3½ miles due east of the Falls, located between Indian and Martin Creek's, and was started about the same time in 1857.

The main difference that while Neosho Falls was more of a "family" affair while Geneva was to be organized as a colony. In the spring of 1857, a committee composed of Dr. Stone and Merritt Moore of St. John's, Michigan and Deacon E. Fisk of Java, New York, were sent to Kansas to select a location for the colony. Going back to Michigan and made a very favorable report in the northwest corner of Allen County.

After the report of the first committee, a fairly large Wagon Train outfitted in St. John, Mich., and headed for Kansas, and Allen County. Their trail ended along Indian Creek, where the group decided to call their town Eureka. But after more settlers arrived the name of Geneva was chosen.

The first settlers in Geneva and surrounding vicinity were mostly Congregationalists. They built a frame church on the west side of Geneva. Rev. Gilbert Northrapp was the first pastor of this church.

A Presbyterian Church of which Rev. S.M. Irwin was pastor was established in 1867, on the west edge of Geneva. The Congregationalists and the Presbyterians existed independently in the town until 1919 when the former federated with the latter.

From the time of the town's organization, its citizens envisioned a means of setting it apart from the drab mediocrity of its counterparts by making it a center of religion and education. This dream became a reality in the early 1860's when the Presbyterian Church acquired a plot of ground on the north side of the town with the purpose of erecting a sectarian college. Before construction could begin, the necessary manpower was drained from the vicinity by the outbreak of the Civil War. For four years plans for the college were set aside until the end of the war, and within a short time thereafter, the building was completed. Situated on the same rise as the town, the college, named the Geneva Presbyterial Academy, consisted of a two story frame building surrounded by a hedge fence that encircled the entire ten acre plot. In the southwest corner of the field was a well that not only supplied water for the Academy, but the entire town with clear, cold water.



**The Geneva Presbyterian Academy as it looked when it became a dream come true for people in the Geneva vicinity. It has long since been gone.**

\* \* \* \* \*

The principal of the college was Rev. S.M. Irwin, who also served as the pastor of the Presbyterian Church. In the 1869 Report of the Superintendent of Public Instruction he claimed that the academy had "the best library in southern Kansas". In 1869 of existence, the academy in the following manner was valued at \$6,640:

|                 |             |
|-----------------|-------------|
| Site .....      | \$3,000.000 |
| Building .....  | \$3,500.00  |
| Library.....    | \$ 100.00   |
| Apperatus ..... | \$ 40.00    |

At its peak the academy boasted fifty students. Of these, thirty were in academic classes, while twenty were in preparatory classes. Of the total, twenty-nine were males and twenty-one were females. As for housing, George Esse built and operated a hotel for the explicit purpose of providing quarters for the academy students.

A lack of students forced the closing of the academy only a few years after it opened. The Presbyterian Church held services in the building for several years afterwards and the Modern Woodman of America, a fraternal organization, leased the upper level of the building and used it for a meeting place. Finally in 1940, the building, now rotten and dilapidated, was torn down.

To put it bluntly, the Geneva Presbyterian Academy was a failure, and perhaps it's doom foreshadowed the future of the town itself. But the fact that it was planned, constructed, and operated for a time clearly shows the hopes held by many that Geneva would become a town of substance.

The first classes were held in September, 1867, with Rev. S.M. Irwin in charge. H.L. Henderson and Miss Jennie Pichell, (later Mrs. Dr. Fulton of Lola) taught for one year, followed by a Mr. Rhodes, the professors Thompson and Robertson. Rev. Irwin was associated with the Academy throughout its existance.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### ODDS AND ENDS —

Early county history tells that some of the first settlers in the Geneva and Neosho Falls area were bothered some by a certain class of people that were claim jumpers. Along Martin Creek just to the east of Geneva was a man named A.C. Smith, who as the History of Allen and Woodson Counties noted. "His sympathies were against the Abolition Colonists, and he had the reputation of backing his opinion with his revolver, he was, a terror to the 'Yankee Colonists'. After the Civil War he moved to Montana, where he studied law, making a living by shooting off his mouth instead of his gun."

He is the same 'Bully' Smith that went to the little town of Neosho Falls. After a prolonged spree, he descended upon the town, looking for trouble. Knowing his reputation no one seemed to accommodate him. He began to promenade in front of the office of Col. N.S. Goss, pouring out a torrent of abuse of the sort generally expressed in print by dashes. No attention being payed to this, he picked up a stone and hurled it through the window, hitting the colonel who was sitting within. Goss came out instantly and before Smith actually knew what had happened, a writ had been sworn out before Judge D.H. Miller, and the iron hand of the Sheriff had gathered in the man that boasted that no man could take him alive.

A fine of \$10.00 was imposed, a gold coin transferred to the Judge, and Smith left vowing never to return. The gold coin was transferred to County Treasurer Haughawout, and placed in his pocket, the only county safe, for some months. Smith finally returned to the town and apologizing to Col. Goss for his action suggested a compromise which was effected, the fine remitted and a quantity of whiskey procured on which a large party became exceedingly happy. This was prior to the prohibitory law.

## ODDS AND ENDS —

The story of Bully Smith was taken from the Andreas History of Kansas, 1883 and differs some with the tale told in the History of Allen and Woodson Counties.

MARTHA JANE WHITTAKER was born in Madison Co., Kentucky in December, 1845, and died at her home six miles west of Yates Center, Ks. November 22, 1915, aged 70 years. In the year 1860 she was married to Arch Whittaker and to them were born six children. They were, Mrs. Laura Rollins and sons, J.I., R.T., W.B., and C.A., all residing in Woodson Co.

ELIZEBETH JANE SMITH was born in Fayette Co., Ohio, July 16, 1837; died Sept. 13, 1918. She moved with her parents to Clinton Co., Ind., when 9 years old where she remained until she was married to Henry R. Ellis, Feb. 8, 1866, when she went with her husband to Howard Co., Ind. In 1868 they came to Woodson Co., Kans. In 1875, she united with the Missionary Baptist Church. Three children, Arthur S., Thomas H., and Oliver R. died of a typhoid epidemic in February, 1875. Other children were Charles Henry, Alva Burr, Emma Laura, Bell Hardie. One grandson, Leonard Ellis, is a sergeant in Co. L., 137th U.S., Inf., now in the trenches in France.

4-24-91

THE CENTRAL HOTEL has been painted and now presents a fine appearance.

DEL BREWER was drowned, together with his team in the Verdigris River last Saturday while attempting to cross with a lumber wagon. He was a young man and a resident of Greenwood Co. The funeral took place in Toronto.

ED ADAIR has leased 20,000 acres of hay land near Batesville, Woodson Co. and the Adairs will probably start a new store there.

Mrs. Nettie Jones died at the County Poor Farm Monday. She was probably the largest woman in southern Kansas, weighing 350 pounds at the time of her death. July, 1914. (It was necessary to take the casket out of a large window.)

12-4-14

Fred Southard went to Kansas City Friday to deliver the big Mitchell for August Krueger. He traded it in on a new Allen car. The new machine is a five passenger with electric lights and a starter, and gas a 34 horse-power engine.

AUGUST KRUEGER received his first ton of candy for Christmas this week.

**PATRONS OF WOODSON COUNTY  
HISTORICAL QUARTERLY**

|  |                              |
|--|------------------------------|
| Brown's Western Auto                   | Lynn and Gail Cantrell       |
| Milton & Virginia Schornick            | Gaulding Oil Co.             |
| Kenneth & Barbara Stockebrand          | Donald E. Ward               |
| John V. Glades Agency                  | Clyde Hill                   |
| Street Abstract Co., Inc.              | Kimbell Ranch-Ed. Kimbell    |
| State Exchange Bank                    | First National Bank-Toronto  |
| Self Service Grocery                   | Hi-Way Food Basket           |
| Krueger Variety & Dry Goods            | Atkin Clinic                 |
| Piqua Farmer's Co-op                   | Blackjack Cattle Co., Inc.   |
| Morton Equipment Co.                   | Yates Center Elevator        |
| Swope & Son Implement Co.              | Jaspers Shopping Spot        |
| Superior Bldg. & Supply, Inc.          | Daly Western Supply          |
| The Herring Families                   | Linde Barber Shop            |
| Cantrell Hay Co.,<br>Craig Cantrell    | Campbell Plmg. & Electric    |
| Artex Manufacturing Co.                | Ted Spencer-Gen. Agent       |
| J. C. Schnell                          | Woodson Co. Farm Bureau      |
| Wilma Mark                             | Jaynes Insurance Agency      |
| Yates Center News                      | Glenn Shaw                   |
| Gambles Hardware &<br>Home Furnishings | Elmer E. Light               |
| Pringle Ranch-<br>J. Richard Pringle   | Milton & Marcella Wrampe     |
| Atkin Rexall Pharmacy                  | Loren & Rita Cantrell        |
| Campbell Funeral Home                  | Al's Jewelry                 |
| Glen & Zola Baker                      | Edwin G. Reid, St. Louis, MO |
| Piqua State Bank                       | Rex Butler, Nashville, TN    |
| Ken Kimbell                            | Thomas Wilson                |
| C. L. "Matty" & Luriel Mathews         | Bill Herman                  |
|  | Abbott & Ethel Crandall      |
|  | Steiner's Sundries           |

